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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement

First, I don't own Microsoft stock and don't work at Microsoft or any other company for that matter, so I don't speak from a selfish motif.

I find the US obsession with anti trust insane and is again going too far, all under the disguise of "what is best for the consumer". I remember the Government going after IBM in the ' 70s and vaguely remember a decade long fight. What were the big benefits to the consumer? It is easier to understand regulation of utilities as their products can be considered necessities in a modern society. Who is forced to use computers in first place and who is forced to choose Microsoft operating systems? Why don't they use UNIX or Linux or whatever is available instead? Why not use IBM's OS/2? If they can't compete whose fault is it?

To me it smacks of socialism the way the State Governors and the Clinton Government go after Microsoft. They should be happy that Microsoft doesn't pull up stakes and move to another country. My native country is Sweden, where socialistic labor laws went hand in hand with general jealousy and equal income through repressive taxation (and still do). The net result has been that many good companies have either been driven to bankruptcy or have moved abroad.

I think Microsoft's and the Bush Government's proposed settlement should be accepted and the company then shielded from new ridiculous law suits.

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